

**PARK & RECREATION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012**  
**6:15 P.M.**

The Parks and Recreation Board met on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, 270 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Rushville.

President Sue Otte called the meeting to order. Members present were: Aaron Gurley, James Zachery, Dave Malson and Will St. John. Paul Barada Sr. was absent.

Also present were: Parks Director Danny Mathews, Secretary Carla Sharpe, City Attorney Julie Newhouse, Mayor Mike Pavey, Parks Liaison Brad Berkemeier, St. Mary's School Representative David Hasecuster, and Gracie Marlatt and Debbie Burkhardt representing Healthier Rush County.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of January 11, 2012 was presented for approval. Malson moved to approve January 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. Zachery seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

**Claims Approval:**

Claims for the month was presented for approval. Malson and Gurley reviewed the claims prior to the meeting. Malson moved to approve the claims for the month. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Claims approved.

**Parks Director's Report:**

Mathews thanked everyone for their support with the Valentines dance last weekend at BRMS. There was a big turnout. It was lots of fun and very successful.

Mathews reported in the Department head meeting this week the Parks Patrol was discussed. Mayor Pavey is in favor of this and gave our permission to move forward.

Mathews reported he had a meeting last Friday with Parks Liaison Brad Berkemeier. It was a good meeting. He is a good guy to talk to and feels he will help us out a lot.

Mathews wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

**Reports from other Committees & Boards:**

Mathews reported for Pool Manager Rita Kaster that she could not be present this evening due to schooling. The pool will open on Memorial Day. She has advertised for applicants and staff.

She will have staff in order hopefully by the next meeting as she hopes to have her guards certified by the first of April.

She will implement the same types of programs as last year with Water Aerobics, Swim Lessons, etc.

She is just now starting to put all this together and will have for next meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mathews stated he discussed the lighting for the City entrance signs in the department head meeting and it's his recommendation to table till next meeting to review bids. He has received bids for solar lighting and electric lighting and he would like to compare the two.

Malson asked if the City had people to install these lights and Mathews said yes.

**New Business:**

**Gracie Marlatt & Debbie Burkhardt – Healthier Rush County – Action Team Partners for Healthy Rush County.**

Mrs. Marlatt stated she was the Extension Educator for Rush County. Partners formed in 2010 to address health issues in Rush County.

They have put together four groups: 1) Healthier Rush County

2) Rush County Parenting Council

3) Drive Home Always Safely – Destructive Drinking

4) Tobacco Free Rush County

They have met three times and are just to encourage and promote a healthier life style for all of Rush County.

A couple projects they would like to work on are 1) Walking Trails and 2) Resource Guide for Fitness Opportunities. Glad to hear our pool offers aerobics and we have walking trails already in place.

They are just here to expand resources. They would like to measure mapped trails and get them publicized.

They will do a lot of the promotion part to promote our walking trails.

They see in our 5 Year Master Plan that we want to expand our walking trails and they would like to help us with that.

Mathews stated he would like to expand the walking trails from 15<sup>th</sup> Street to 16<sup>th</sup> Street and would like to see them go all the way to Gas America and the outdoor lab at R.E.S.

Mathews stated our trail at the Amphitheater is very beautiful and we also need to get the word out that it is there. Marlatt also stated there are Eagle Scouts that could help with signage and promotion.

Mathews stated our walking trail is 1.7 miles from Main Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street at Veterans Memorial Park.

Marlatt said people like to know how far they have walked.

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The extension group would like to link to our website.

Marlatt also handed out an Action Team Brochure on Parenting Resources.

Marlatt extended an invitation for any Parks Board member to come to their meetings.

Healthier Rush County meets the first Tuesday of the month.

She also encouraged everyone to get on their email list.

Anyone can also check on their Facebook Page – Partners for Healthier Rush County.

### **Dave Hasecuster – Request from St. Mary’s School to use Booker T.-**

Hasecuster explained he was the Maintenance/Custodian at St. Mary’s School.

The State is mandating them to put together an Emergency Evacuation Plan.

He is here to ask the Parks Board’s permission to use the Booker T. School building as an evacuation point.

He said hopefully they will never have to use the building but needs something in place. Once the kids are evacuated to Booker T. parents can be called from there to be picked up.

They will do two test runs each year.

Mathews stated he talked to the Fire Chief who has inspected the building. Jenkins said the building is sufficient enough to handle this request and Mathews states this request is acceptable with him.

Otte asked how they will get into building. Hasecuster stated they would like to have a key to keep on site at school so they can grab the key and head out of the building and go.

Gurley questioned if ICAP uses the building now. It was noted they just use the downstairs.

Malson questioned Liability Insurance.

Sharpe stated the City has Liability Insurance on the building as she rents the building out for kid’s parties, weddings and family reunions now.

Malson stated he would still like for us to check with the insurance company.

Malson stated we will table this discussion and give Newhouse and Sharpe enough time to check with insurance company and report back at next meeting.

### **Aaron Gurley – Discuss Parks Patrol –**

Gurley mentioned several people have approached him in regards to a Parks Patrol.

In the past it has not been used effectively and of recent not been used at all.

Gurley stated he feels an extra set of eyes would be good to look over the parks.

This Parks Patrol will not be used as enforcement but only as an extra set of eyes.

The Police Department will implement rules and regulations and give training.

Each person will have to fill out an application and have a back ground check.

I.D. cards will be given to identify the person.

These people will just be volunteers and have no police powers whatsoever.

Police Chief Craig Tucker feels we can make this a better program.

Parks Patrol will not necessarily patrol all day long maybe just from 4:00 p.m. and later.

Gurley said he has no problem taking the lead on this and that Chief Tucker will also help set this program up.

Zachery stated he feels these individuals patrolling should have Park’s Patrol T Shirts to make them really stand out.

Malson suggested treating everyone with respect. If you get rough and talk rough, kids tend to get rough and talk rough.

Malson made a motion to pursue the Parks Patrol, get more information and put together a Parks Patrol Program with all the rules and regulations. Zachery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Otte stated Gurley has the board’s blessing to implement this program.

### **St. Patrick’s Request –**

Sharpe shared with the board that for the past 6-7 years the St. Patrick’s group have been a \$2,500 Sponsor of the Amphitheater Concert Series. They in turn ask that the Parks Department gives them two \$100 Season pool passes for their raffle to raise money.

Mathews stated he has talked to Brian Sheehan about money from his Smiley Fund as Morristown looks so beautiful with their potted plants that he would like to implement this program here on Main Street as Sheehan is putting together a Smiley Fund to beautiful Main Street. Mathews said Sheehan has even said he would work with us and possibly get us money for these flower pots for downtown.

Vogel’s is going to give us a quote for the flowers.

Malson made a motion to approve the St. Patrick’s request for two \$100 swimming pool passes for the 2012 swimming pool season. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Discuss Walking Trail Extension to Industrial Park -** Discussed earlier.

### **Items not known in advance –**

Sharpe stated she received a call from Pete McCorkle who will be taking over as President of the Girls Softball League. He is asking if the T-Ball League can become part of their league.

I told him that he would need to talk to Ruby Welter and that this would all be brought up at the meeting in March when everyone is requested to come before Parks Board and sign their Lease Agreements and pay their Security Deposit.

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St. John stated that when doing the Lease Agreements we need to put something in there about recycling in all parks and suggested planting trees.

Malson will get the Lease Agreements to Newhouse to add the wording.

Tom Jobe, Licensed Applicator/Owner/Operator of Shady Hills Nursery was present and asked the board to speak at this time.

He stated he too was here representing the Softball and Baseball Leagues and he is in charge of the ground maintenance this year.

He is asking that he be allowed to mow and maintain the ball fields themselves. They will not do the outer parameters, just mow and maintain the inside of fence.

He said he would also like to put in a bid to do the flowers downtown.

Mathews stated he will share this with the Mayor.

Jobe said he will use advantage turf solutions. He will walk the ball fields and see what he can do to make them better fields.

Jobe is spraying them now as a donation from his company.

Gurley moved to table this until he can talk to the Mayor about this. Malson seconded. Motion carried.

Otte stated the City of Rushville and the Amphitheater both have Facebook pages and she would like to put one together for the Parks and Recreation Department.

She would like to post pictures and keep the citizens abreast of what is going on in our parks.

The board gave Otte their blessing.

Otte said she feels this is a great way to promote our City parks.

Otte wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day!

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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SUE OTTE, PRESIDENT

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PAUL BARADA SR., VICE PRESIDENT

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DAVE MALSON, MEMBER

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WILL ST. JOHN, MEMBER

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AARON GURLEY, MEMBER

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JAMES ZACHERY, MEMBER

ATTEST:

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CARLA SHARPE, SECRETARY